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CROP INSURANCE -- A ROUND-UP AND LOOK-AHEAD ^A

A transcribed talk by John Baker, Chief of Radio Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Recorded November 10, 1945. Time: 4 minutes and 40 seconds, without announcer's part.

ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

Opening

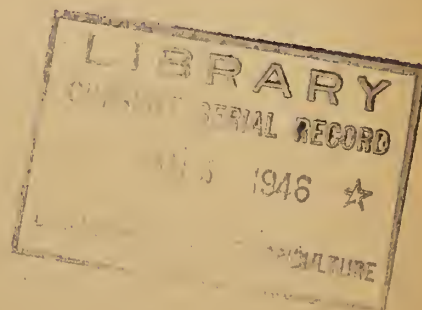
ANNOUNCER: (LIVE):

Federal Crop Insurance came on the scene again in 1945. The insurance program had been discontinued for a year...but Congress set it up again last December. And now that we've had a chance to see how the re-organized program has worked for the past year, it's a pretty good time to look it over. John Baker, Chief of Radio Service for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has gathered some of the facts and figures for us. And today, by transcription, we're going to hear him tell us about it in his own words...So, tell away, John.

Closing

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE)

Friends, that was John Baker of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in Washington. He gave you a round-up of the first year's progress of the Department's revived crop insurance program and the plans for next year.



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TRANSCRIPTION

BAKER:

The revised edition of the Federal Crop Insurance program is rounding out its first year of operation...and I think we're all interested in finding out what the record looks like.

The farmer wants to know if the program is working...if it's on a sound basis...and what he can expect from the 1946 program.

Well...taking first things first, the insurance program is going strong. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation is settled on a firm foundation and is looking back on a successful year.

That's an important fact to take into consideration when a farmer is making up his mind about crop insurance. He wants to know whether or not he's tying up with a sound organization. And, with the past year's work as his proof, the farmer can be sure the Federal Crop Insurance program is pulling its own weight.

When the new program went into effect early in 1945, the Crop Insurance Corporation offered insurance protection on five crops. The regular crops...insurable on a nation-wide basis...were wheat, cotton, and flax. And then, experimental insurance was offered in certain areas of the country on corn and tobacco.

By late fall, 550 thousand farms were covered by Federal Crop insurance. 550 thousand farms were protected from crop losses caused by any unavoidable hazard...such as flood, drought, and insects.

And some of those farmers are mighty glad they have had that protection. Of course, with the market prices being paid for cotton and wheat and tobacco this year...the farmer who had a crop didn't have to worry very much about the income from his crop. But those prices don't do much good if you don't have a crop to market.

Just for example...there were some farmers up in the northwestern corner of Minnesota who were counting on their crop insurance to pull them out of a bad hole this fall. As late as the middle of November, their flax and wheat crops were unharvested...standing under water. The only hope they had was for a freeze...or a spell of dry weather...to help them harvest at least a part of their crops. But the farmers who had crop insurance, were sure of a fair income from their crops, no matter what happened. That's the kind of protection that more and more farmers want for their 1946 crops. But there has been a little difficulty during wartime in finding enough crop insurance agents to offer the insurance to every farmer who wanted it. Farmers were too busy to take time from their own work to act as agents.

These agents work...on a commission basis...to help the Triple-A county committeemen offer insurance protection to their neighbors. So, while the agents are earning extra money for themselves, they are putting their counties on a firmer economic basis... They are helping farmers be sure of an income in spite of what the weather man, the fire hazards, or insects might do to their crops.

So, when you get ready to apply for insurance on your 1946 crops, the county committees hope to be able to find enough extra help, now that the war is over. They hope to be able to enlist the aid of enough authorized agents to call on every farmer who grows an insurable crop.

Applications are all in for 1946 winter wheat...with most of the applications for spring wheat insurance still to be filed. And already more farms have been covered by insurance for the 1946 wheat crop than the total number covered during the whole of 1943, the last year of the old program.

Then, as we get further into the season, farmers will be applying for insurance on cotton and flax and spring wheat...and in some parts of the country, on tobacco and corn. But there'll be no new experimental crops in the 1946 program. Plans were made to add trial insurance for citrus fruits, peanuts, and potatoes. But the Crop Insurance Corporation wants to be sure it's ready to take on the new programs before it expands too far. And I should think that's a pretty good way to keep your foundation good and firm...Just make sure you have all the bugs out of your machinery and get it in good running order before you speed it up too much. So the Crop Insurance Corporation plans to be pre-
pared to handle the extra crops when they're added...but that won't be in 1946.

But with the same five crops as in 1945, it's going to make more agents in 1946 if every farm is to be reached. So, if your county committeemen asks if you want to serve as a crop insurance agent...suppose you think it over! The more people working for Federal Crop Insurance, the better the results...the sooner the program can be expanded to cover more crops. And as the coverage expands, so expands the security of farmers' income across the Nation.

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TIMELY FARM TOPICS No. 48 a
(Farm Science Serves the Nation No. 27)

AMMONIUM NITRATE -- NEWEST THING IN FERTILIZERS

A transcribed report by Ernie Moore, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Recorded November 23, 1945. Time, without announcer's parts, four minutes.

ANNOUNCER'S OPENING AND CLOSING

OPENING

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE)

And now by transcription...from the United States Department of Agriculture...we learn how science helps the farmer with his fertilizer problems.

As most of you know, the newest thing in chemical fertilizers is ammonium nitrate -- an excellent source of nitrogen. Before the war, however, farmers couldn't make much use of ammonium nitrate because of its tendency to cake -- and get hard as rock.

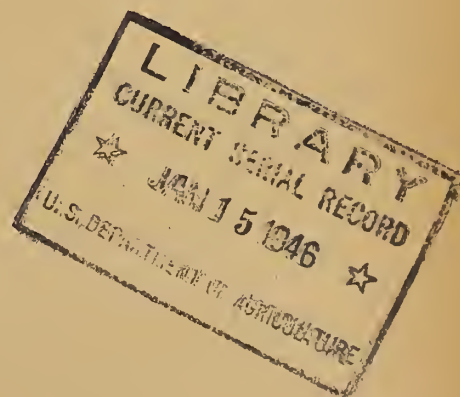
How the scientists overcame this difficulty will be told by Ernie Moore, of the Agricultural Research Administration. Mr. Moore.

CLOSING

ANNOUNCER: (LIVE)

Thank you, Ernie Moore, for giving us a report on ammonium nitrate. And may I suggest, folks, that for more information on the use of this fertilizer you get in touch with your County Agricultural Agent, or the State Agricultural College.

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